

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Ernst MERK  
Ralf KÖHLER

Title: HEATING DEVICE COMPRISING A FLEXIBLE  
HEATING ELEMENT

Express Mail No.: EV502027526US

Date of Deposit: 17 December 2004

Customer No.: 42419

**FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**Mail Stop PCT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Rule 1.56 and MPEP Section 2001.06(a), References AA through AC and AL listed on Form PTO-1449, are cited in the International Search Report for corresponding International Application PCT/EP03/00178 and are brought to the attention of the Examiner as possibly material to examination of the subject Patent Application.

Reference AL listed on Form PTO-1449 is also cited and discussed on Page 2 of the Substitute Specification.

Applicants received a copy of Form PCT/DO/EO/905 and note that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has received and thus the National Stage file contains a copy of the International Search Report. Applicants understand that pursuant to MPEP

Based Upon: PCT/EP03/00178

1893.03(g), the Examiner will consider the references cited in the International Search Report, without any further action by Applicants under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

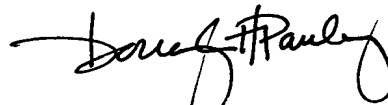
The remaining references listed on Form PTO-1449 are also brought to the attention of the Examiner as possibly material to examination of this Patent Application.

German Patent Reference 41 24 187 C1 discloses a circuit for controlling a heating element that is used to control temperature in an enclosure.

German Patent Reference 196 40 009 A1 discloses an electrical circuit with control logic for controlling temperature within an enclosure.

Form PTO-1449 is enclosed with a copy of each and every non-U.S. Patent reference cited on Form PTO-1449.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO-1449  
(MODIFIED)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

SERIAL NO.

VO-679

10/500,731

**LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT(S)

Ernst MERK et al.

FILING DATE

GROUP

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6,433,313	08/2002	Owens et al.			
	AB	6,222,162	04/2001	Keane			
	AC	5,770,836	06/1998	Weiss			
	AD	5,120,936	06/1992	Shyu et al.			
	AE	4,829,458	05/1989	Russo et al.			
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL	0 562 850 A2	09/1993	EPO				
	AM	41 24 187 C1	11/1992	Germany				
	AN	196 40 009 A1	04/1998	Germany				
	AO	60157337 A	08/1985	Japan (Abstract)				
	AP							

**OTHER PRIOR ART** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR		
	AS		
	AT		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

USCOMM-DC 80-3985

Customer No.: 42419

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